

City's indebtedness grows; Mayor Moro fills some vacancies

By MIKE PETROVSKY

At a press conference held last Friday afternoon, Mayor Charlotte Moro and finance director Jack Kearney announced the most recent figures on the city's indebtedness. Kearney estimated the current debt -- not taking into account money owed to the firm's and police pension funds -- at \$330,863.13. Both the mayor and Kearney agreed that the amount will go over \$600,000 since the current figure represents about 80 percent of the debt, and doesn't include money owed to pension funds.

The mayor and the city council



MAYOR CHARLOTTE MORO spends most days at City Hall performing the duties of City Manager, the position which is still vacant.



FINANCE DIRECTOR JACK KEARNEY has been busy tallying the city's debts and helping to prepare a 1984 budget.

Times sure have changed!

How teens spend their free time in town

By MIKE PETROVSKY

In the 1950's and 1960's Carbondale teenagers had plenty of things to do for recreation. There were movies at the Irving and Majestic Theaters, bowling at the CYC and YMCA, roller skating at the CYC. Football games at night at Russell Park and Teen Town (dances) at the YMCA every Friday and Saturday night.

It was no problem for a teenage boy to arrange a date. Cars weren't necessary. Everything was within walking distance. After the movies, football games or dances, teenagers would then head over to one of the local soda shops.

Today things are different. The NEWS interviewed over a dozen teenagers at Carbondale Area Junior-Senior High School to find out what they do in their spare time.

All of the teenagers said that a person is handicapped socially if he or she does not have access to a car or does not have a friend who drives.

Going to the movies, bowling, roller skating, dancing and eating at fast food restaurants (which have all but replaced local soda shops) are activities teenagers still enjoy, "but if you want to participate," as one eleventh grade girl put it, "You need a car."

The closest bowling alley is in Childs and the closest roller skating rink and fast food restaurants are in Byron. The closest indoor movie theater is at the Scranton Vermont Mall, and the most publicized dance spot for people under 21 is in Wilkes-Barre.

So what is there left for teenagers to do in Carbondale? Most of those the NEWS interviewed said they "hang out" at either the old Irving Theater, the Turkey Hill on Main St. or at the parking lot near the corner of Main St. and 8th Ave. If you dare, one teenage girl said.

"My mother told me to stay away from the parking lot," said one eighth grade boy.

A senior girl said that girls who hang out at that parking lot get a bad reputation. She also had a few derogatory remarks about the boys there. She did mention that "the good guys hang out at the parking lot next door."

The lobby of the old Irving Theater which has been recently converted into a combination video arcade-pool room-snack shop is also a popular hangout according to an eighth grader, who also said he and friends play video games at Turkey Hill.

The juniors and seniors consider both the Irving and Turkey Hill places where a younger crowd congregates.

One senior girl who participates in softball and field hockey said, "I don't care to hang out around town. It's boring. I'd rather be doing something." She added, though, that she usually goes shopping or to the movies with friends and that she has a car at her disposal.

An eleventh grade boy who works after school 30 hours a week and who spends some of his spare time playing basketball at Bob Evans's place (the former armory) said that when he gets together with his friends, all of whom have cars, they drive around looking for "that proverbial bar that will serve anyone." Once they get there, he said, the person who looks the oldest will go in, get a six pack or two and the rest of the night will be spent in the car drinking and "crusing" around town. The boy admitted that he could be doing something better with his time. "But what else is there to do?"

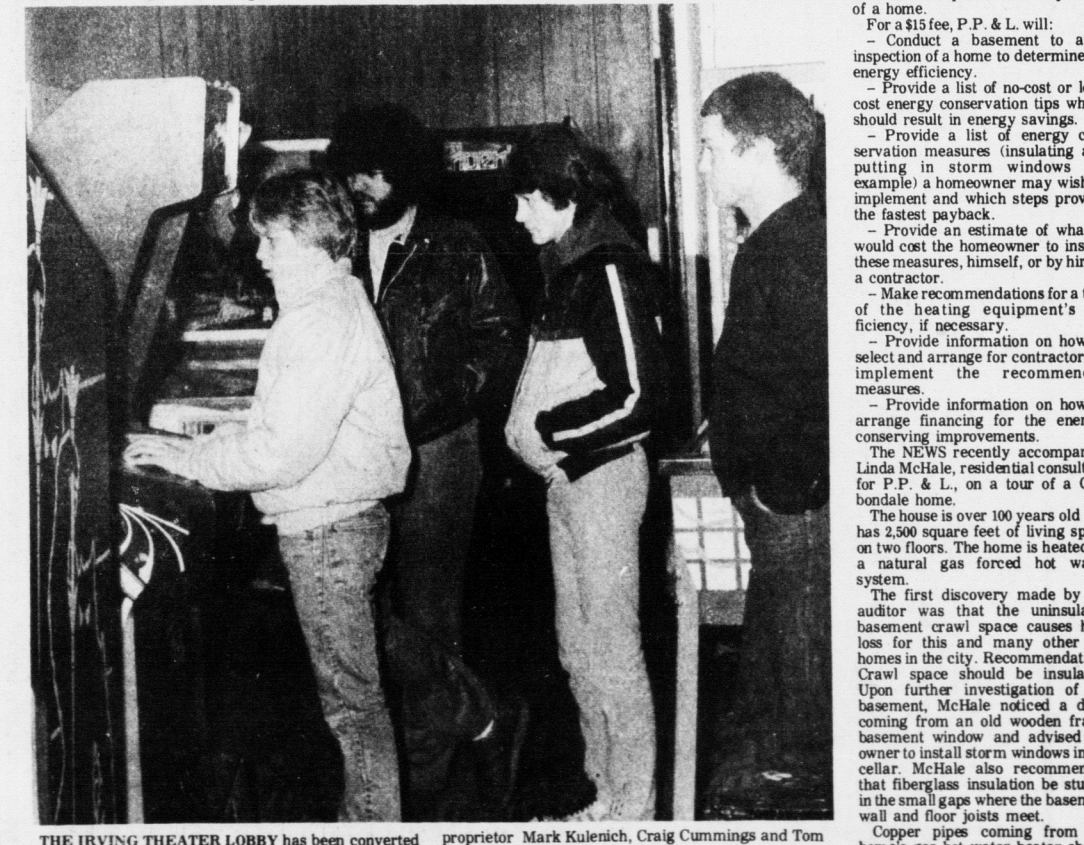
A junior girl said that she spends a lot of her time helping with the housework because her parents work. She and her friends go "crusing" around town and usually end up parking their cars at Jack Roe's gas station or at the old car wash across the street from the former post office, a place she calls "chrome corner." "We meet there and have small parties in our cars until the police kick us out," she said adding that the parking lot across the street from Turkey Hill is a similar hangout for teens who have graduated from high school.

To say that nothing has been done to ease the plight of Carbondale's teenagers would not be accurate. There have been attempts with the most recent being the Teen Center located above the liquor store on Main St. "About 25 kids helped clean the place up and raised the money for a television and a stereo," one teenager explained. "But things got out of hand. People started showing up who didn't belong there. Then both the television and the stereo were stolen." The center is now closed.

School activities still play a part in the nightlife of most of the teenagers interviewed. There are no night high school football games since the Carbondale Area stadium has no light, but night basketball games are well attended. The high school does hold dances, but only about three times a year. The school's ski club also offers night skiing twice a week at Elk Mountain, but the expense of such an activity leaves some teenagers out in the cold.

The teenagers had suggestions as to what they'd like to see in town. All of them think the city needs a fast food restaurant, but the "Big T" right across the street from the high school closed for lack of business, so that may not be the answer. A movie theater and an under-21 night club would be "great."

There was doubt, however, among all the teenagers as to whether or not any of these establishments would turn their peers away from "last hanging out," which is apparently the area's number one pastime among teens.



THE IRVING THEATER LOBBY has been converted to a video game arcade. Involved in a game of asteroids are: (from left) Dan Hecker, arcade proprietor Mark Kulenich, Craig Cummings and Tom Bowell.

file its quarterly reports to the IRS 17, with State Senator Robert Mellow and the city now owe a 25 percent penalty fee. The city also must pay the IRS 17 percent interest on the money owed.

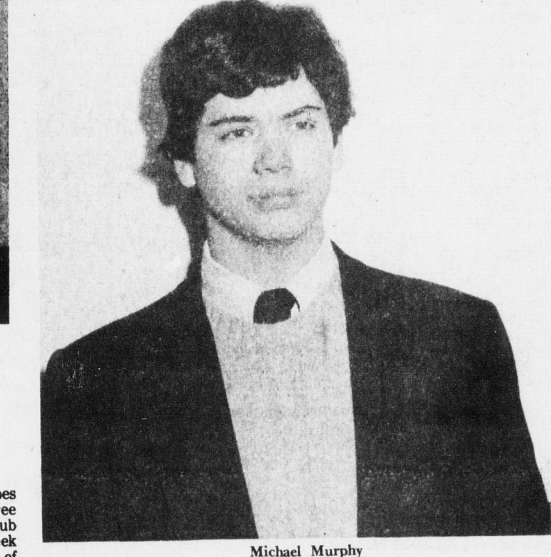
The mayor appointed Frank D. Mancuso as director of Public Works, the job previously held by Walter Thorne, and Constantino Molinaro as

Director of Licenses and Inspection. Both positions are salaried and not subject to the approval of the city council. The mayor said she did not know what the salaries for the two positions would be until the 1984 budget is completed.

Mrs. Moro named the following people to fill the non-salaried positions, subject to city council's approval.

— Frank Quinn, John Cardamone and Frank Gillott to the Zoning Hearing Board.

— Ralph Hoyle, Paul Brown, James



Michael Murphy

Michael Murphy named regional contest winner

Michael Murphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Murphy, R.D. 1, Jermyn, has been chosen by the VFW as its first place regional winner to represent this region of Pennsylvania at the state Voice of Democracy competition held in Harrisburg. Michael composed an original speech on the topic of the American Constitution, taped his speech with the cooperation of WCIL, and submitted

Energy audit can save money

By MIKE PETROVSKY

Carbondale homeowners who were shocked by last month's heating bill or who dread the thought of having to pay the energy bill for this month may be interested in having an energy audit done on their home.

The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company provides a home energy audit service for single family homes, townhouses, row houses, and apartment buildings having four units or less. Audits usually take two hours to complete.

Richard Beasley, Scranton Area manager, explained that an audit consists of a top to bottom inspection of a home.

For a \$15 fee, P.P. & L. will:

- Conduct a basement to attic inspection of a home to determine its energy efficiency.
- Provide a list of no-cost or low-cost energy conservation tips which should result in energy savings.
- Provide a list of energy conservation measures (insulating and putting in storm windows for example) a homeowner may wish to implement and which steps provide the fastest payback.
- Provide an estimate of what it would cost the homeowner to install these measures, himself, or by hiring a contractor.
- Make recommendations for a test of the heating equipment's efficiency, if necessary.
- Provide information on how to select and arrange for contractors to implement the recommended measures.
- Provide information on how to arrange financing for the energy-conserving improvements.

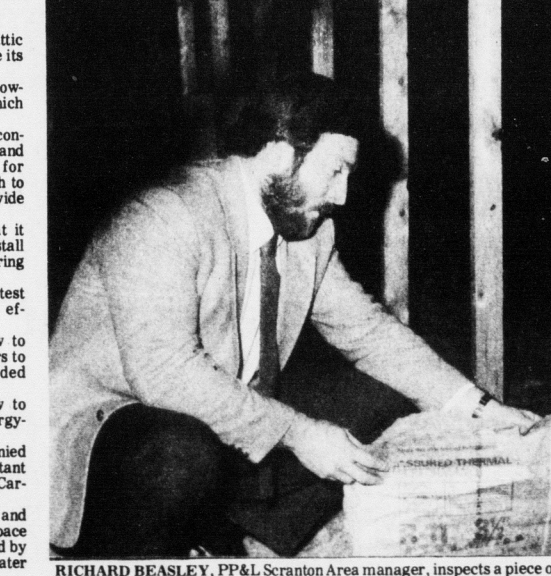
The NEWS recently accompanied Linda McHale, residential consultant for P.P. & L., on a tour of a Carbondale home.

The house is over 100 years old and has 2,500 square feet of living space on two floors. The home is heated by a natural gas forced hot water system.

The first discovery made by the auditor was that the uninsulated basement crawl space causes heat loss for this and many other old homes in the city. Recommendation: Crawl space should be insulated.

Upon further investigation of the basement, McHale noticed a draft coming from an old wooden frame basement window and advised the owner to install storm windows in the cellar. McHale also recommended that fiberglass insulation be stuffed in the small gaps where the basement wall and floor joists meet.

Copper pipe coming from the home's gas hot water heater should be insulated as well to prevent the hot



RICHARD BEASLEY, PP&L Scranton Area manager, inspects a piece of attic insulation. He said the attic is the first place to look for lost energy dollars. (NEWS Photo by Mike Petrovsky)

water from cooling before it reaches the upper floors. McHale added that electric hot water heaters should be insulated.

Lowering the temperature setting on the hot water heater, gradually, so that no one living in the home notices, would also result in energy savings.

The temperature of the hot water should be about 120 degrees, or 140 degrees, in homes that have dishwashers which do not heat their own water.

McHale inspected some of the windows on the first and second floors and found that they fitted tightly against their frames and that storm windows had been installed.

"No heat loss here," she said.

When anyone is considering investing money to make their home more energy efficient, the attic is usually the place to start. P.P. & L. found this home's attic well ventilated. Adequate ventilation is needed to prevent moisture from collecting on the ceiling below. It was suggested that the homeowner add six inches of insulation to the attic, bringing the total to 12 inches, but the

show which should be done first for the quickest payback.

Once the recommendations are made, the next step is up to the homeowner. One audit recommended insulating the home's electric hot water heater, thus cutting the energy bill from \$88 to \$57 per year. If the homeowner did the job himself it would cost between \$11 and \$16. Within two months the energy savings would be more than that.

If the homeowner chose to insulate



Michael Murphy

Michael Murphy named regional contest winner

to a panel of judges from Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. Michael was recently honored for his success at the Clarke Summit VFW Post where he received \$300 in VFW's gold medal and certificates. He is a Junior at Sacred Heart High School and member of the Forensics Team under the direction of Sister Therese Mary.

Energy audit can save money

P.P. & L. representative added that the cost of the project versus the amount of energy saved would have to be considered.

Upon completion of an audit, McHale showed how the results of the inspection are put into a portable computer terminal linked by phone to a main computer. The main computer, in turn, processes the information and sends back the results of the audit. The portable terminal prints out the main computer's findings thus providing the homeowner with the cost of the recommended improvements and



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